

Connectivity Act (Roll no. 367), I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF FRANCISCO (FRANK)
"PANCHO" RIOS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Francisco (Frank) "Pancho" Rios, an Angeleno, a veteran, an immigrant, and a man who lived a rich life full of love and service. With his passing on the evening of July 17, 2018, his loss is being mourned by family, friends, and others who knew him.

Francisco Rios was born in 1930 in the small town of Santa Barbara, Chihuahua, Mexico, and he resided in Mexico until 1952 when he left to attain his piece of the American Dream. He married his wife Paula Vega in 1954, and together they settled in Fresno, California, before ultimately making their home in Los Angeles.

Francisco decided to serve his adopted home, enlisting in the U.S. Army, where he served on active duty from 1955 to 1957, and received an honorable discharge on June 30, 1963. For three decades, he also dedicated himself to serving Los Angeles County residents, working to maintain roadways for the Department of Public Works.

Known affectionately as "Nino" and Uncle Frank, Francisco became an avid traveler, venturing to Africa, the Middle East, Western Europe, and his favorite destination, Las Vegas. He fondly recounted many of his travels, including his spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and to Vatican City. An Angeleno through and through, he was everyone's favorite tour guide of Los Angeles and its surrounding areas, regularly exposing out-of-town family visitors to the diversity of the region's sights and attractions.

While Francisco and his wife Paula did not have children together, they were an affectionate presence in the lives of their nieces and nephews, to whom they showed love, wisdom, kindness, and unwavering and unconditional support. The latest of these was Kaila Vega, daughter of Amador Vega.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending heartfelt condolences to the family of Francisco Rios. He leaves behind a rich legacy of love, patience, warmth, affection, strength, and wisdom that will be deeply missed by his loved ones. He is preceded in death by his parents Francisco and Soledad and his wife Paula, and he is survived by siblings, many nieces and nephews, and godchildren, who will deeply miss and cherish the memory of their "Nino" and Uncle Frank.

HONORING CARL CHILTON'S 95TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 95th birthday of Mr. Carl Chilton,

who is a proud graduate of Port Isabel High School and Texas College of Arts and Industries at Kingsville. In 1942, Mr. Chilton enlisted in the Army Air Corps, earning his wings when he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1944. Texas and the United States are forever grateful for his service and leadership throughout his 13 missions in France and other parts of the world.

After serving in the military, Mr. Chilton majored in accounting at the the University of Texas at Austin. His classroom and leadership experience led him to become a teacher at Brownsville Junior College, where he taught introductory business.

A man of family, service, and faith, Mr. Chilton is a member of the First United Methodist Church and an active community resident. A former contributor to our district local news outlet The Brownsville Herald and past president of the Brownsville Tennis Club, Mr. Chilton exemplifies the best of South Texas. He has been a loyal member of the Rotary Club for 53 years, served as president and chairman of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and was president of the Valley Zoological Society.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for the opportunity to honor and celebrate Carl Chilton's 95th birthday. I ask my colleagues to join me and Mr. Chilton's family and friends in wishing him well on this special occasion. Mr. Chilton's devotion to his family and community make him a great role model for the people of Brownsville Texas, and I am very proud to be his Representative.

HONORING BEN HARDEMAN OF
BRYAN TEXAS

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ben Hardeman, a resident of Bryan, Texas, and the 2018 recipient of the Outstanding Individual Contribution award from the League of Historic American Theatres, a national organization.

In 2010, Ben was chairman of the Downtown Bryan Association and heard that the abandoned Queen Theatre was put up for sale. The structure was built in 1885, and first served as a hotel and boarding house. By 1913, silent films were being shown and by 1939 the building was completely redone and included "chilled air", something of a novelty in that era. The Queen continued to thrive until the late 1970s when the building was shuttered. By the time the Association purchased the building, it had been abandoned for 40 years. The theatre had a hole in the roof, pigeons in the rafters, and rotting wood.

Ben brought the idea of the purchasing and restoring the Queen to the Downtown Bryan Association's Board of Trustees. They approved the purchase and began raising money for a down payment. Just shy of reaching the required amount, Ben paid the rest of the money personally.

Ben spearheaded the restoration of the building, aiming to make it a truly community effort. The Association began collecting donations and within a few weeks, they raised \$30,000 in pledges. Work quickly began on

gutting the theatre with Ben and several other Bryan residents assisting with the demolition and clean-up.

By 2011, the theatre's Art Deco facade was restored with Ben often seen doing much of the physical labor. Between 2013 and the Queen's re-opening on May 4, 2018, Ben and the Association made plans to restore the theatre's interior and began fund raising efforts for this purpose.

Ben spearheaded much of the effort, obtaining labor and material donations, and even designing the handrails inside the building.

Since its re-opening, the Queen now serves as a single-screen movie theatre, performance venue, and, it also houses the Downtown Bryan Association and visitor's center.

Thanks to Ben Hardeman's vision, the work of the Downtown Bryan Association and many volunteers who donated time, money, and resources, the Queen Theatre is once again a place for the community to gather and enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ben Hardeman on receiving the Outstanding Individual Contribution award and recognize all the work done to restore the historic Queen Theatre in Bryan, Texas.

I have requested that a United States flag be flown over the United States Capitol to honor Be Hardeman and the Queen Theatre.

As I close today, I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country during these difficult times, for our military men and women who protect us from external threats, and for our first responders who protect us here at home.

HONORING THE 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF LIFETRACK

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lifetrack on 70 years of providing high quality supportive services to some of the most vulnerable residents of Saint Paul, Minnesota and surrounding communities. Throughout decades of adaptations, Lifetrack remains constant in serving those in need, and empowering families to thrive through challenges.

In 1948, injured veterans returning from WWII and families ravaged by the polio epidemic faced major obstacles. Lifetrack was born as a collaboration of social services agencies that embarked on a mission to provide speech, physical, and occupational therapies to these adults and children. Later, the organization launched vocational programs that aimed to prepare people for life and work after their rehabilitation. Services have continued to expand to assist families and individuals experiencing homelessness and new refugees. Lifetrack also now provides services to families of highly stressed and deaf and hard-of-hearing children to help them build social, emotional and life skills that can carry them through their lives.

When individuals and families face adversity, a network of support is critical to resiliency. For the most vulnerable in our community, that support is not always available. Lifetrack strengthens our community by empowering families and forging connections.